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TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION OF MASSACHUSETTS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE Commissioners on Lunacy for 1854-5 having finished the work appointed for them, now desire to acknowledge their obligations to the members of the medical profession and also to several clergymen and public officers in Massachusetts, and to the superintendents of Insane Hospitals in this and other States and in Great Britain, for the full and abundant service which they rendered in gathering the facts required by the Legislature, and the valuable counsel they gave at the request of the Commission.

They were required by the law to ascertain the number and condition of all the insane idiots in the Commonwealth, and also the best method of providing for their restoration or custody.

All the various means that had been previously used to obtain an accurate enumeration of these unfortunate persons had fallen short of completeness, and the Commission determined to try another plan, and avail themselves of your position and knowledge to obtain this information. Considering that the domestic condition of every family was probably known to some medical practitioner, the fields of observation of the several physicians collectively for this purpose would cover the whole State; therefore if the whole body of your profession would consent to give what information they possessed, they would give an account of almost every person of diseased or defective mind in the Commonwealth.

Presuming, then, upon your kindness and interest in the work, the Commission addressed their letters of inquiry to every member of your body, asking each to make answer to fifteen questions which they put forth.

The result showed that they did not set too high an estimate on your intelligence and regard for scientific investigations, nor presume too much on your generous devotion to the claims of humanity, for, with the exception of two who declined to give the information that was asked, and two others who neglected to answer, returns were received, directly or indirectly, from every physician in the State who was in practice and was acquainted with the facts, or was a reliable witness of what he had seen.

Thus the whole body of the profession united in this work, each

making his contribution to the general knowledge of the number and condition of the insane and idiots in Massachusetts.

There was in this co-operative labor more than a bare statement of facts in answer to the request, for there was a great and general interest manifested in the progress and success of the undertaking. Many went out of their way, and at considerable sacrifice of time and convenience, to ascertain all the facts requested. A large portion of the answers not only gave the desired information, but offered to render any further aid that might be wanted.

Many, besides doing their own work, of gathering and reporting the facts within their own fields of observation, lent their influence in aid of the cause beyond their special spheres. They visited and wrote to their brethren in their own and in other towns, to persuade such as could not, on account of the press of professional occupation, conveniently gather, record and return the account of the facts, or such as did not see the propriety or expediency of doing so, and such as, in their manifold employments, had forgotten it.

Especially there were eighteen physicians in the various parts of the State, who were ever ready, at the call of the Commission, to render any service, to visit, ride or write to others within their range of movement or acquaintance, to persuade the unwilling, encourage the faltering and convince the doubtful. One generous co-operator, in the north part of Worcester County, for this purpose went or wrote to the brethren in fourteen towns. Others in other counties did nearly as much.

By means of these and numerous other liberal coadjutors, the whole were persuaded, and all the physicians in the State, but the four above excepted, made the returns of the facts, within their knowledge. And more than this; in their correspondence, and in the personal intercourse with the Commission, there was manifested a kindness and a courtesy, as well as an interest in the purposes of the survey, that was honorable to the intelligence and the cultivation of the medical profession of Massachusetts.

Even the fields which seemed to be the special province of the four gentlemen who did not report, were carefully examined by their neighbors, and thus the whole survey was completed.

By this co-operation of the physicians, the superintendents of insane hospitals, and some of the clergymen, overseers of the poor, selectmen and other gentlemen in the towns, where there were no physicians, an enumeration of the insane and idiots was made in Massachusetts more nearly perfect than has been obtained in any other state or nation.

Probably there has not been known, in the world before, such an instance of the whole body of the medical or any other profession, uniting, with so few exceptions, to contribute each his individual knowledge, or the result of his personal observation and experience, to one common mass, each working singly in his own field, yet all co-operating in harmony for one great and general purpose.

And yet this seems to be the most natural and effective means of

usefulness for a large society or body of men of any profession, associated for, or engaged in, any purpose, spread through different towns and districts, with diverse fields of observation and varied experience. Each may thus contribute his facts, the results of his own inquiries and reflections, and concentrating the whole together into one report, each may then receive back the gathered wisdom of the whole state or nation.

All these returns were received in the autumn and December of 1854. They were then arranged by the Commission in a report, which they were required by the law to make to the Governor and Council. The Legislature, with a due regard to the labors of the physicians and others who aided in this work, and to the value of their contributions, resolved, that "it was creditable to their high intelligence and generous devotion, that only two of those gentlemen, whose testimony was desirable, refused to answer the inquiry, and only two others neglected to do so; and the Commonwealth owes a debt of gratitude to those members of the medical profession, superintendents of hospitals, clergymen and municipal officers, and all others, who so liberally assisted the Commissioners in this important work."

Furthermore, on the recommendation of the Committee of Charitable Institutions, who had this matter under consideration, the Legislature resolved that, "in acknowledgment of these services rendered to the State, and to distribute as far as possible the valuable information contained in the report of the Commissioners, one copy of that document be sent to every one who aided in gathering the facts and forming the opinions therein contained."

Subsequently, the Legislature voted to print another edition of 3500 copies of this report, and also that of the Committee of Charitable Institutions, and to bind as many as would be necessary, and then give a bound copy to every one who had aided in its preparation.

This work of printing and distribution was ordered to be done under the superintendence of the Commission.

As early as possible this second edition was printed and bound, and then a copy was directed to each one to whom the Legislature had ordered them to be given.

These books have, in various manners, been put in the way of reaching their several destinations. The Legislature provided no means of sending them to those who were to receive them, yet the Commission sent them to the central towns or places in the counties, and engaged the gratuitous service of generous friends to send them thence to the other towns by private conveyance.

The books destined for each town are inclosed in a separate package, and the name of each recipient is written on the wrapper.

The packages for the towns of West Stockbridge, Stockbridge, Lee, Tyringham and Otis, and all the towns south of these in Berkshire, were sent to Hon. Increase Sumner, in Great Barrington.

Those for all the towns in Berkshire north of those above named,

were sent to Hon. George S. Willis, Sheriff of the County, in Pittsfield.

Those for all the towns in Franklin County were sent to Dr. James Deane, in Greenfield.

Those for all the towns in Hampshire County were sent to Dr. James Dunlap, in Northampton.

Those for all the towns in Hampden County were sent to Dr. William Bridgman, in Springfield.

Those for the towns of Ashburnham, Fitchburg, Gardner, Leominster, Lunenburg, Royalston, Westminster and Winchendon in Worcester County, and Ashby in Middlesex, were sent to Dr. Thomas S. Boutelle, in Fitchburg.

Those for all the other towns in Worcester County, except Rutland, were sent to Gov. Lincoln, in Worcester.

Those for Ashland, Framingham and Marlboro' were sent to Mr. Silas B. Wilde, in Framingham.

Those for Acton, Bedford, Carlisle, Concord, Lincoln, Sudbury and Wayland, were sent to Dr. Josiah Bartlett, in Concord.

Those for Billerica, Boxboro', Burlington, Chelmsford, Dracont, Dunstable, Groton, Holliston, Hopkinton, Lexington, Lowell, Natick, North Reading, Pepperell, Shirley, Stoneham, Tewksbury, Tyngsboro', Westford and Wilmington, were sent to Mr. Sheriff Keyes, of Concord.

Those for Melrose and South Reading were sent by Dr. Mansfield, of South Reading.

Those for Winchester and Woburn were sent by Dr. Rickard, of Woburn.

Those for Brighton and Newton were sent by Dr. Braman, of Brighton.

Those for Cambridge, Malden, Medford, Sherborn, Waltham and Watertown, were left at the office of the State Printer, 4 Spring Lane, in Boston.

Those for all the other towns in Middlesex were sent directly by the hands of friends.

Those for Andover, Boxford, Bradford, Georgetown, Groveland, Haverhill, Lawrence and Methuen, were sent to Mr. Sheriff Carey, in Lawrence.

Those for Amesbury, Newburyport, Salisbury and West Newbury, were sent to Dr. Josiah Atkinson, of Newburyport.

Those for Beverly, Essex, Gloucester, Hamilton, Ipswich, Manchester, Marblehead, Middleton, Rockport, Rowley, Salem, Topsfield and Wenham, were sent to Dr. George Choate, in Salem.

Those for Lynn, Lynnfield, Saugus and Swampscot, were sent to Dr. James M. Nye, in Lynn.

Those for Boston and Charlestown were sent directly to the recipients.

Those for Bellingham, Franklin and Medway were sent by Dr. Monroe, of Medway.

Those for Braintree and Randolph by Dr. Howe, of Weymouth.

Those for Canton and Medfield were sent by Dr. Taft, of Canton. Those for Foxboro', Sharon and Stoughton by Dr. Bacon, of Sharon.

Those for Weymouth and Cohasset were left at the office, 4 Spring Lane, Boston.

The others for Norfolk County were sent directly to their respective towns.

Those for Attleboro', Berkley, Dighton, Easton, Mansfield, Norton, Raynham, Swansey and Taunton, were sent to Mr. Sheriff Babbitt, of Taunton.

Those for Dartmouth, Fairhaven, New Bedford and Westport, also for Marion and Rochester, and for Nantucket, were sent to Dr. Lyman Bartlett, in New Bedford.

Those for Fall River, Freetown and Somerset, to Dr. Amos C. Wilbur, in Fall River.

Those for Pawtucket, Rehoboth and Seekonk, were sent by Dr. Carpenter, of Pawtucket.

Those for Abington, Hanover, Hanson and North Bridgewater, were sent to Dr. Frederick A. Jewett, in Abington.

Those for Carver, Duxbury, Kingston and Plymouth, were sent to Dr. Timothy Gordon, in Plymouth.

Those for Bridgewater, Lakeville, Middleboro' and Wareham, to Levi L. Goodspeed, Esq., Superintendent of the State Almshouse, in Bridgewater.

Those for Halifax, Marshfield, Pembroke, Plympton, Scituate, South Scituate and West Bridgewater, were sent to Mr. Sheriff Phillips, in Marshfield.

Those for Hingham and Hull were left at the office, 4 Spring Lane, Boston.

Those for Barnstable, Dennis, Falmouth, Harwich, Sandwich and Yarmouth, were sent to Sylvanus B. Phinney, Esq., of Barnstable.

Those for the rest of Barnstable County were sent directly to the several towns.

Those for Chilmark, Edgartown and Tisbury were sent to Dr. R. S. Jones, of Holmes's Hole.

The packages and reports for all the other towns not herein specified, were sent by the hands of friends directly to their respective places of destination.

Most of these packages have already been distributed from these central places to the towns by the aid of friends, and have probably reached the persons for whom they are intended.

The names of all the recipients in each town being written on the wrapper of the package, it has been, or will be, sent to either, as opportunity may offer, with the request that, whoever shall receive it, will distribute the books to the several individuals to whom they are directed.

If any individual who is entitled to a report has not received one, he is requested to send to the towns or persons herein mentioned

for it. If, however, the packages have been sent, the books will be found in the hands of some one who may have the whole.

Thus every means in the power of those who were intrusted with this matter have been used to carry out the intentions of the Legislature, and get the report into the hands of all who had previously served the State by aiding in its preparation, and they trust that every one has received, or will soon receive, his book.

And now the Commission would again express their gratitude to the members of the medical profession and others, whose assistance here and elsewhere was asked, not only for their almost universal co-operation in the undertaking, but for the general courtesy and kindness with which they answered the request; for, without their help, this work could not have been accomplished, and the manner in which that help was rendered, made the work easy and agreeable, that otherwise would have been difficult and burdensome.

EDWARD JARVIS, for the Commission on Lunacy.

Dorchester, 8th November, 1855.

ON CAUTERIZATION BY GALVANISM.

(Read before the Boston Society for Medical Observation, November 5th, 1855, by Dr. ALGERNON COOLIDGE, and communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.)

WITHIN the last twenty years a new method of applying electricity to medical purposes has been tried, and promises to become of greater practical utility than any other. This is the method of employing a wire, heated by galvanism to a red or white heat, instead of the knife, for some operations, and always instead of the old means of applying the actual cautery.

The first mention we have been able to find of this cauterization by galvanism, is in a passage of Becquerel's "Treatise on Electricity."* He says, "Dr. Fabré Palaprat has found in electricity a very simple way of applying instantaneously a moxa to the deepest seated parts of the body, without producing any appreciable lesion except at the point where it is applied. For this purpose a platinum needle is introduced into the affected part, and is put in communication with one of the poles of a voltaic pile, composed of elements with large surfaces, capable of producing powerful thermo-electrical effects; while the other pole, by means of a metallic plate, is in contact with a neighboring part of the body. The needle immediately becomes incandescent and burns the adjacent tissues, producing a strong pain but of short duration. Some days after, inflammation similar to that produced by a moxa sets in, and is followed by a scar which separates in the form of a quill." There is some mistake in this statement of Becquerel. The means he gives, as used by Fabré Palaprat, cannot produce the desired effect.

We must date, therefore, the first practical use of cautery by galvanism no further back than 1843.

* *Traité de l'Electricité.* Paris. 1836. V. 4, p. 306.

Heider, in Vienna, acting upon a suggestion made to him two years previously, by Prof. Steinheil, of Munich, employed the galvanic cautery for the destruction of the dental pulp.

In 1844, fourteen months after the experiments of Heider, Louyet, in the *Archives de la Médecine Belge*, recommends the same method for the same purpose. He suggests combining the killing of the nerve and the filling of the tooth, by means of a melted globule of metal dropped into it.

In 1848 Gustavus Crusell, a Russian, published a communication on cautery by galvanism. He seems to have been the first to suspect what might be done by this method. He recommends it in anchyloblepharon and symblepharon, also for the extirpation of tumors. He made use of wire and of platinum foil for cutting, and of the latter for cauterizing a surface. In 1846, two years previously, a paper of his on "Galvanic Cautery" had been read before the Academy of St. Petersburg. In 1847 he operated upon a vascular tumor covering a great part of the forehead and region of the eye. He also opened the meatus urinarius, which in consequence of a chancre had become nearly closed. The first operation was performed by moving "to and fro" a platinum wire connected with a battery, and heated in the middle to a white heat, sawing the tumor off, as it were.

Sedillot, in his treatise on operative surgery (1853), refers to the publication in 1849, of the perfect cure of an erectile tumor by the use of the galvanic cautery, and says that MM. Nélaton and Maisonneuve have also employed it.

In 1851 John Marshall, of London, published an article "On the Employment of the Heat of Electricity in Practical Surgery," in the *Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*. He refers there to a case which is reported in the *Lancet* of May of the same year. A young man, 20 years of age, of a strumous habit of body, had a fistulous opening in the right cheek from a succession of abscesses. He had been under a variety of treatment for several months, without success. A fine platinum wire was passed through the fistula, so that its ends could be connected with a battery. The electric current was kept up for nine seconds. But little pain was felt. Sloughs appeared on both orifices of the fistula; that on the inner surface came away on the fifth day, that on the outer one on the sixth. The inner opening was closed on the eighth day, the outer on the eleventh. A small sinus was discovered some days afterwards on the inner surface of the cheek, and was cured within a fortnight by a repetition of the operation. The author mentions having used it with equal success in rectal fistula, and in external and internal hemorrhoids. He anticipates that in some cases this way of operating will be found advantageous as compared with the knife, scissors or ligature.

The *Lancet* of the same year contains the experiments of MM. Harding and Waite, both dentists. Harding owes his attempts to the perusal of Mr. Marshall's case.

In the *Gazette des Hopitaux*, 1852, Mr. Nélaton mentions having used this cauterization in different cases, with perfect success.

Mr. A. Amussat (in the *Comptes rendues de l'Académie des Sciences* for July, 1853) has used this method of cauterization in ulcers of the neck of the uterus, the extirpation of tumors, &c.

Ellis (*Lancet*, 1853) cauterizes likewise the neck of the uterus; he recommends it in prolapsus of the uterus, and of the vagina.

By far the most important work on galvanic cauterization that has yet appeared, is the one of Prof. Middeldorpf, of Breslau in Prussia.* If not the first to have used it, it is to him we are indebted for our present advance in it. He has certainly made this way of operating easy and practical. It was the perusal of Harding's method of destroying the dental pulp, that first caused him to devote his attention to the subject. The battery he prefers is a large Grove's battery, composed of four cells. The zinc cylinders are six inches long and four broad, each having about seventy-eight square inches of surface; the interior surface being alone reckoned. The positive element is composed of three pieces of platinum foil, each of which being nearly four inches long and three in breadth, the surface presented by it is over sixty square inches; so that the battery can be said to present two hundred and fifty square inches of surface of platinum, and two hundred and ten of surface of zinc. By a very ingenious arrangement of the rods connecting the several elements, he can have a strong or weaker current at pleasure.

The instruments Professor Middeldorpf uses are simple in construction and very easy to handle.

The first (the knife) is composed of two metallic tubes or rods running parallel through a wooden handle, and connected at one extremity by a platinum wire, of different shape for different operations, while the other extremities connect with the poles of a battery. One of the rods being divided obliquely within the handle, the circuit is broken. (Fig. 1.) By pressure on a button connect-

FIG. 1.



ed with one end of the divided rod, the ends are brought in contact and the circuit closed. The wire becomes immediately heated to a red or white heat, according to its size, and divides the tissues as easily as a knife. The wire is always of platinum, this metal requiring a very strong heat to melt it.

By means of this instrument, fissures and cavities can be burnt, abscesses opened, tumors removed, fistulas laid open, &c. The only difficulty consists in heating the wire to the appropriate temperature. If too hot, it acts too easily, and does not prevent hemorrhage; if not hot enough, it adheres to the tissues and causes,

* Die Galvanoeaustik, ein Beitrag zur Operativen Medicin. Von Dr. A. T. Middeldorpf. Breslau. 1854.

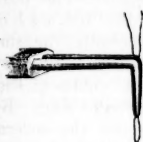
likewise, hemorrhage on being detached. Pain during the operation is generally pretty severe; after it, comparatively very slight.

Heider's instrument was on this plan; also Harding and Waite's. The latter used a lever instead of a button. Professor Middeldorpf now prefers a wedge, capable of being pushed forward to close the circuit, and backwards to break it; in this manner the continual pressure on the button is dispensed with.

The principle of the second instrument is the same as that of one just described. The difference consists in having a piece of platinum foil bent like an arch instead of the wire. This is useful for burning large surfaces, as in the vagina, rectum or pharynx (where the heated metal serves as a lamp to work by).

Ellis (Lancet, 1851) invented a very practical instrument for cauterizing the neck of the uterus. At the end of the rods is a small porcelain crucible, heated by the wire that winds around it. (Fig. 2.)

FIG. III.



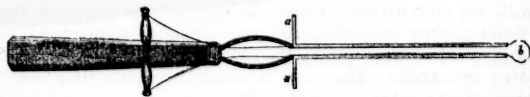
The instrument for cauterizing the lachrymal sac is bent at a right angle, and the wire is movable. (Fig. 3.) For operating upon strictures the instrument is either straight or has the curve of the male catheter (Fig. 4.), and can be enclosed in an elastic bougie to prevent any danger of burning the mucous membrane of the urethra.

FIG. IV.



The principal instrument, however, that Professor Middeldorpf makes use of, is the platinum loop. (Fig 5.) Two tubes, running parallel one to the other, are supported by a wooden handle; their

FIG. V.



ends (*a a*) connecting with the battery, are bent. They enclose a wire forming a loop (*b*) at the other extremities, and issuing from the tubes through an opening at the point of curvature. The loop is capable of being tightened to any desirable extent by drawing the free ends of the wire. For greater solidity the tubes are separated by a piece of ivory or other non-conducting substance, to which they are attached; and the wire can be wound round an axle,

made for that purpose, by which way an uniform tightening of the loop can be obtained.

He performed his first operation on the 30th of March, 1853; the removal of a fibrous polypus in the posterior nares. No hemorrhage occurred. The following May he removed a laryngeal polypus, and has since then performed over sixty different operations, among which can be mentioned the cauterization of fistulæ, the destruction of a large erectile tumor, the perforation of a callous stricture of the urethra, and the removal of uterine and nasal polypi. A summary of the principal cases will not be without interest.

I.—*Neuralgia*. An old woman, 75 years of age, was suffering from neuralgia, having its starting point in one of five or six hemorrhoids situated around the anus; the pain, especially during defecation, was intense, and had caused the patient great suffering for months. In the operation the hemorrhoid was first compressed by the heated wire, which was afterwards carried around its base. Some drops of blood appeared; the pain was slight and of short duration. Opium was given to prevent a stool. The next day the neuralgic pain had disappeared, and the wound smarted but little. After five days the opium was discontinued. The first stool, produced by an injection, was very painful. After sixteen days the patient was discharged well. The hemorrhoid had disappeared, and the neuralgia never returned.

II.—*Fistula*. A workman, 44 years old, was admitted into the hospital suffering from a fistula near the right trochanter. Its direction was from behind forward; its length about three inches. The patient had been previously treated without success, by pressure, by injection of nitrate of silver, of tincture of iodine, by artificial formation of a second opening, and the introduction of a seton. The operation consisted in introducing a double platinum wire, the extremity of which was pushed through an artificial opening. The galvanic current was then passed through the wire. The operation lasted a minute; the pain was slight. After the withdrawal of the wire, a cord could be felt under the skin about the size of the little finger. The next day the openings being closed, the crusts were removed and a teaspoonful of matter escaped. Injection with lukewarm water; no dressing. On the fourth day the openings were pretty clear and surrounded with healthy granulations. Secretion and swelling moderate. The artificial opening healed on the twenty-sixth day, the posterior one on the fourteenth. Soon after, the patient was discharged well.

III.—*Fistula in Ano*. A man, 48 years of age, was suffering from an abscess near the sphincter ani, giving rise to a fistula, an inch and a half in length and running parallel to the rectum. No internal opening could be found, and after an unsuccessful treatment by enlargement and the use of tents, the galvanic cautery was tried. An artificial opening was made into the rectum; a platinum wire passed through the fistula, and coming out of the anus formed a loop, which by its appropriate instrument having been put in con-

nection with a battery, the whole part was divided, as in the common operation. No hemorrhage; slight pain. After two days, healthy granulations appeared, and at the end of a month the patient was discharged well.

IV.—*Erectile Tumor.* A boy, 3 months and 8 days old, had an erectile tumor situated on the left side of the face. It reached from the zygomatic arch to the mastoid process, about two and a half inches in breadth, and from the meatus auditorius to three quarters of an inch below the inferior maxilla. The tumor is raised about one inch and a half above the surface of the face. It is yielding, fluctuating, warm, without pain, and does not pulsate; swells out during inspiration and during crying; it can be compressed and emptied like a sponge, then two small arteries are felt beating. The child is healthy and strong.

Three unsuccessful attempts were made to obliterate it by galvano-puncture. Two needles were passed into the tumor and put into communication with the positive pole of a battery. The moist skin of the tumor was touched with the negative pole. No coagulation took place, though the operation lasted fifteen minutes. The needles, on being withdrawn, were still bright. The small openings they had made were hardly cauterized. No reaction followed. Two weeks afterwards the operation was repeated. The two needles were placed at right angles, and alternately touched with the positive pole of the battery for half or three quarters of a minute. The negative pole was in contact with the skin. After fifteen minutes the needles were withdrawn; this caused some drops of blood to appear. The needles seemed, as it were, baked to the parts that surrounded them, and some force was necessary to draw them out. The tumor was a little contracted, and had become reddish. Two hardened ridges could be felt in it. No reaction occurred. Some days afterwards the tumor had again become soft and yielding. The diameters were about the same as when first measured, but it had become more prominent. Galvano-puncture was used the third time. Five needles were passed into the tumor. The operation lasted twenty minutes. After the withdrawal of the needles, the whole surface was covered with collodion. The tumor, which had become contracted during the operation, became now still smaller; its red color disappeared. For some days it remained in this state, but for a short time only. A fortnight after the operation, it was found to be larger than it had ever been before. Injections were considered unsafe in this case, and as a last resort the ligature of the carotid was proposed. This was postponed, and after six months it was resolved to try the effect of the galvanic cautery; though with little hope of succeeding. The platinum wires were passed into the tumors, crossing each other at right angles. They were allowed to remain incandescent for ten or fifteen seconds. They were then withdrawn, not without difficulty, and on account of their adherence to the cauterized tissues some hemorrhage occurred.

The tumor gradually collapsed, pulsation ceased in it, it no longer

swelled during the crying of the child; and at the end of four weeks it was no larger than a walnut. A portion beneath the jaw, which had escaped cauterization, enlarged, but after an operation similar to the first, it diminished in a remarkable manner, and never again regained its former size.

Entropion, trichiasis and distichiasis have also been successfully treated by the same remedy.

V.—*Callous Stricture of the Urethra.* A patient, 50 years of age, in consequence of frequent attacks of gonorrhœa, was suffering from a callous stricture of the urethra, of about one quarter of an inch in length, and which would only admit a bougie of one fifteenth of an inch in diameter. The urine dribbled away, drop by drop. The patient was put under the influence of chloroform. An instrument, having the curve of the male catheter, was passed up the urethra and pressed against the stricture. The connection between the instrument and the battery being formed, in ten or fifteen seconds the stricture was perforated. Four weeks after the operation the patient was discharged well. Nine months afterwards, a zinc catheter, about four lines in diameter, could be passed with perfect ease.

VI.—*Polypus of the Larynx.* A minister, 42 years old, was suffering from a polypus of the larynx, situated above the right vocal chord. The respiration was loud. It was with great difficulty the patient could speak in an audible tone. Swallowing solid food was extremely difficult. The cervical glands were swollen. On opening the mouth the free end of the tumor could just be seen behind the epiglottis. The operation consisted in seizing the polypus with a pair of forceps and throwing the loop of wire over it. By tightening the loop it slipped towards the pedicle. The galvanic cauterizer was passed through the wire, and the polypus drawn out by the forceps. After four days the patient left his bed, and on the fifth his room. Five weeks after the operation he had resumed his duties. One year and a half afterwards an examination proved that up to that time the cure had been permanent.

VII.—*Polypus Uteri.* A woman, suffering from polypus uteri, which had been mistaken by some nurses for a prolapsus and treated accordingly, was seized during the night with diarrhœa. The next morning a pediculated tumor, of the size of a child's head, was detected just within the orifice of the vagina. Five days afterwards, fever having set in, the state of the patient became such that the worse prognosis was formed. When the operation for removing the polypus was resorted to, she had been for several days lying in bed, pale and emaciated; she was exhausted and perspiring profusely. Between the thighs could be seen a round and elastic tumor, of a pale-red color; three quarters of which were outside of the vulva and covered with mucus. The loop of wire was passed over the tumor; on tightening it, it slipped upwards towards the fundus of the uterus; the connection with the battery being formed, the tumor was removed. No hemorrhage occurred.

The cut pedicle was about the size of a quarter of a dollar. The polypus weighed one pound and nine ounces. The patient left her bed four weeks after the operation. This was owing to the state of exhaustion she was in; for in another case of removal of uterine polypus, the patient was discharged well four days after the operation.

VIII.—The last operation we wish to mention is the removal of a fibrous tumor, growing from the posterior part of the pharynx at the base of the skull. The patient, a young man of 20, had already undergone an operation for its removal. This operation consisted in opening the nose on the right side, and cutting the tumor off with scissors. Great hemorrhage had occurred, amounting to the loss of over three pounds of blood. Six weeks afterwards the polypus returned. It was situated in the right cavity of the nose, and forced the septum very much to the left. It could also be felt by the mouth behind the palate. The right eye was slightly pushed forward. A sound could be passed to the left and to the right of the tumor into the pharynx.

Four different and unsuccessful attempts were made to surround the pedicle with the loop. During the second attempt, a part of the tumor was cut off. Notwithstanding its great vascularity, no hemorrhage occurred; no pain was felt. At the fifth attempt the loop was passed around the tumor, and it was successfully removed. It was found to weigh one ounce and one drachm. No bleeding followed; the pain was very slight, the patient complaining only of a sense of warmth in the neck and nose. The remaining root of the polypus was extirpated with scissors, not without great hemorrhage. The patient recovered slowly.

In another case a similar tumor, weighing three ounces, was removed by means of the platinum loop without the slightest hemorrhage. The patient, a boy 11 years old, was discharged after fifteen days.

For the removal of internal and external hemorrhoids, Middeldorpf's loop has proved very successful.

It is difficult to say how large an artery may be cut in this way without producing hemorrhage. We think, after the experiments we have seen and made, that any artery the size of a common quill can be cut with perfect safety; and perhaps much larger. The principal difficulty is in regulating the heat of the wire and the quickness of the hand. The wire can be too hot or too cool; in the first place it divides the tissues without singeing them, and does not prevent hemorrhage; in the second place, it adheres to the tissues which are lacerated when it is removed, equally producing bleeding. If the wire is moved too rapidly, it does not singe; if too slowly, it carbonizes the parts instead of contracting them. In both cases, hemorrhage occurs.

An extract from the work of Professor Middeldorpf has just appeared in the *Archives Générales de Médecine*, Aout, 1855.

Bibliographical Notices.

A Dictionary of Terms used in Medicine and the Collateral Sciences. By RICHARD D. HOBLYN, A.M., Oxon. New American, from the last London Edition. Revised, with numerous additions: By ISAAC HAYS, M.D., Editor of the American Journal of the Medical Sciences. Pp. 522. Blanchard & Lea. 1855.

THIS work has passed through six editions in London, which fact alone is sufficient evidence of its excellence and thorough adaptation to the wants both of students and practitioners. If the frequency with which we have referred to this volume since its reception from the publishers, two or three weeks ago, be any criterion for the future, the binding will soon have to be renewed, even with careful handling!

It is true that most medical terms soon get to be "household words" with the physician, but occasions almost daily arise when he will wish to refresh his memory by turning to some such compendious, though ample, repertory of professional terms; and, to an Editor of a Medical Journal, such a work is indispensable.

Unlike too many whose names figure, editorially, upon the *title-pages* of the works of others, we find that Dr. Hays has done the profession great service by his careful and industrious labors. The Dictionary has thus become eminently suited to our medical brethren in this country. As the Editor tells us in his Preface, "more than one hundred pages have been added" to the volume, and "the size of the page has been materially enlarged." The additions by Dr. Hays are in brackets, and we believe there is not a single page but bears these insignia; in every instance which we have thus far noticed, the additions are really needed and exceedingly valuable.

We heartily commend the work to all who wish to be *au courant* in medical terminology. For sale in Boston by Ticknor & Co.

New Means for making Extension and Counter-Extension in Fractures of the Leg and Thigh. By JOHN NEILL, M.D., Professor of Surgery in the Pennsylvania College, &c. Philadelphia.

WE have received a pamphlet of a half dozen pages, containing suggestions by Dr. Neill for the effecting of more direct extension and counter-extension in fractures of the lower limbs. The plan offered commends itself very greatly to us for the common-sense views upon which it is based, and for the very simple manner in which these are put into practice. It is urged that the extension and counter-extension should be as much in a line with the limb as possible. To attain this the splints are made much longer than usual, and thus the counter-extending band can be carried up much higher, and of course much more in parallelism with the axis of the limb than is effected by a short splint. In fractures of the thigh, it is also suggested that both extending and counter-extending bands can be carried over their respective ends of the splint, joined together, and then readily tightened at will by twisting them with a stick introduced at right angles—very simple, and admirably contrived for equalizing the strain on the bands.

The Case of Luigi Buranelli Medico-Legally Considered. By FORBES WINSLOW, M.D., D.C.L., late President of the Medical Society of London, &c. London: John Churchill. 1855. Svo. pp. 69.

THIS pamphlet, if it could be readily obtained here, would be read with

strong interest at the present time, when a case, almost the counterpart of that which forms its subject, is under the consideration of the Executive. An Italian, resident in London, committed a homicide, having exhibited symptoms strongly indicating, in the minds of many eminent medical men, that he was insane before, and at the time of the commission of the act. The evidence at the trial of the prisoner was chiefly medical, and was of the most interesting character, the witnesses being among the most celebrated experts on the subject of mental derangement. A verdict of guilty was rendered by the jury, and notwithstanding the strongest efforts made to obtain a temporary suspension of the sentence (including a memorial to the Secretary of State, signed by Dr. Conolly, Dr. Baly, Dr. Forbes Winslow, Mr. Alexander Shaw and Mr. Mitchell Henry), the execution went into effect. Dr. Winslow's pamphlet is an earnest and able protest against the injustice of the execution, founded on a searching analysis of the case and of the evidence on the trial, and concluding with some medico-legal observations, which, coming from one of the highest authorities in England on this subject, are replete with value and interest. Without pretending to offer an opinion on the merits of the case now awaiting the decision of the Governor of this State, we rejoice that our community is spared the shocking spectacle of a fellow-being hurried into eternity without a careful consideration of the case, in spite of the protests of those best able to judge of his mental condition at the time he committed the deed for which he was condemned.

A Disquisition on the Ancient History of Medicine, Comprising Critical Notices of the Origin of Medical Science, &c. By THOMAS L. WRIGHT, M.D. Cincinnati: H. W. Derby. 1855. 12mo. pp. 84.

THE first paragraph of the preface to this pamphlet conveyed an unfavorable impression of the work to our mind, which the first chapter did not remove. The author is intemperate in his expressions, and bitter in his feelings towards those who do not think, as he does, that there is much to admire in the wisdom and knowledge of the ancients. While he is undoubtedly right in his conclusions, we could wish he had employed a style more in accordance with established usage, in discussions of this nature. Our prejudices against the author, however, were greatly diminished, as we read further. His account of the state of ancient medicine is highly interesting, and the book is a valuable one to all who would like to learn, without the trouble of reading a more elaborate treatise, something of the condition of our science from the earliest ages down to the time of Hippocrates. We hope Dr. Wright will be encouraged to continue his labors, and favor us with an account "of the condition and influence of medicine in more modern times; containing remarks upon the character, acquirements and powers of such men as Hippocrates and Aristotle—upon the state of medicine in the Macedonian empire, and among the successors of Alexander—and upon its introduction into Rome, and its condition there, till the times of Galen and Celsus." We are sure that such a continuation (if free from useless efforts to prove what only fools deny), would be favorably received both by the profession and by the public.

Transactions of the Belmont (Ohio) Medical Society for 1854-5. Bridgeport, O.: J. G. Affleck. 1855. 12mo. pp. 172.

THIS small volume contains several papers of interest, and evinces the zeal of its members in supporting its organization with much credit. We

notice some cases reported by Ephraim Garton, M.D., of Morristown, O., of the treatment of acute rheumatism by the local application of urate of ammonia, made by mixing clay with urine, and applying it as a poultice. The treatment seems to have been followed by alleviation of the symptoms.

Introductory Address delivered at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, Oct. 16th, 1855. By JNO. C. DALTON, Jr., M.D., Professor of Physiology and Microscopic Anatomy. New York: John J. Schroeder. 1855.

WE have read with unusual pleasure this interesting address. It sets forth, in the clear and vigorous style characteristic of the author, the mutual dependencies of the chief departments of medical science, chemistry, anatomy, physiology, pathology, materia medica and therapeutics. We recommend it to the student, the practitioner and the non-professional reader.

The Physician's Visiting List, Diary, and Book of Engagements for 1856. Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston.

THIS indispensable companion to the practising physician, for which the profession is indebted to Mr. John Smith, 49 Long Acre, London, is so commonly used that any encomiums upon it from us are superfluous. The American reprint is neatly executed, and will doubtless have a most extensive sale. It may be had in Boston of Ticknor & Fields.

Synopsis of the Course of Lectures on Materia Medica and Pharmacy, delivered in the University of Pennsylvania. By JOSEPH CARSON, M.D. Second edition, revised. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea. 1855. 8vo. Pp. 196.

THIS work is intended solely for the use of the students attending the lectures at the University of Pennsylvania, and to all such we cordially recommend it, as a most useful aid in retaining and classifying the knowledge imparted by the professor. "To the character of an independent treatise the work presents no claim; in fact, a large proportion of it requires the explanations given in the lecture room." It is a well-printed and handsome volume. For sale in Boston by Ticknor & Fields.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, NOVEMBER 22, 1855.

M. VALLEIX.

THE recent death of the distinguished Dr. Valleix, who died on the 12th of July last, in the midst of a career of usefulness and success, is an event which has caused a deep sensation in Paris, where he was not only appreciated as a man of eminent talents, but esteemed by all who knew him for his amiable character and agreeable manners. Born in Toulouse in 1807, he commenced the study of medicine in Paris, in 1830, and received his diploma in 1835. He formed an early attachment to M. Louis, and became, during his whole life, a most ardent follower of the "numerical system," his attachment to which was only equalled by that which he bore to his revered master.

While *interne* of the hospitals, Valleix became an inmate of the Foundling Hospital, where his attention was first directed towards the study of the diseases of infancy. The results of his observations in this department, besides a very large number of detached papers published in various journals, consist chiefly of the *Clinique des maladies des Enfants nouveau-nés*, an octavo volume of 700 pages; and the *Recherches sur la Fréquence du poulx chez les Enfants nouveau-nés, &c.*, in the Memoirs of the Society of Observation. In 1838, M. Valleix began to investigate the difficult subject of neuralgia, and in 1841 published his well-known work, the *Traité des Névralgies, ou Affections Douloureuses des Nerfs*, an octavo of 720 pages, which received a prize of 3000 francs from the Academy of Medicine. In 1844 his essay on *Edema of the Glottis* received a prize of 1500 francs, from the same learned body. Shortly after, appeared the first volume of the *Guide du Médecin Praticien*, a work in ten volumes, which was not completed until 1848. The success of this work is shown by the fact that a second edition was published in 1851, and a third in 1853. In 1851 he promulgated in his clinical lectures at La Pitié, the results of his observations on certain diseases of the uterus, especially its displacement, and their treatment by means of a modification of Simpson's intra-uterine sound. His views met with much opposition, and became the subject of one of the most interesting discussions which ever took place in the *Académie de Médecine*. M. Valleix was occupied, shortly before his death, in collecting new observations on this subject, in view of deciding several questions which arose in the course of the debate. He was actually engaged at the time of his fatal illness in preparing a paper on the co-existence of bronchitis with emphysema and diseases of the heart; and also another on the results obtained by percussion in pleurisy. His various contributions to the journals, including original memoirs, critical reviews, analyses of books and controversial articles, would fill several large volumes.

The editor of the *Archives Générales de Médecine*, in a notice of M. Valleix, from which we have derived the above facts, thus concludes:—"M. Valleix was in truth one of the most intelligent disciples of M. Louis. He made the best use of the doctrines of this celebrated master, when the latter, overwhelmed by practice, could no longer sustain them by his own investigations. By his labors and his criticisms he showed how ill founded was the opposition made to them. Without falling into those exaggerations which may compromise the best cause, he boldly supported the principles of that philosophy on which alone the progress of medicine depends, and clearly distinguished what are often confounded, the slow and painful growth of medical science, and its practical requirements, so frequently destitute of scientific aid. In a word, M. Valleix was the successor of M. Louis, a relation which constituted his principal task, and which will be his chief glory."

BRISTOL (MASS.) SOUTH DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY.

MESSRS. EDITORS,—Being in New Bedford on Wednesday, 14th inst., I was politely invited to attend the semi-annual meeting of the "Bristol South District Medical Society," then holden in the City Hall. A goodly number of the members were present, and activity, with great harmony, prevailed. After the ordinary business was over, a very interesting and remarkably well written paper, on some of the causes of the prevalent or so-called "fashionable" diseases of females, was read by one of the members, Dr. Comstock, of Middleborough. His positions appeared to be

just and reasonable—founded on accurate observation and good common sense. Among other things he instanced the present manner of suspending so great an amount of clothing, tightly girt, from the hips; and defended the superiority of the old-fashioned stays—an opinion in which most unprejudiced observers will probably agree. He further seemed to think that much more was to be gained by a discriminating general treatment than by local applications. And from subsequent remarks from other members it might be inferred that the *specialty* was not in very good repute in Bristol South. The Society may be congratulated in having the subject so judiciously discoursed upon.

After Dr. Comstock's paper, an extempore discussion arose on a question incidentally started by one of the members, in which most of those present took part. The discussion was animated, gentlemanly, and dignified. Our fraternity are too apt to discuss the expediency of giving more or stronger medicines, but in this case, the *safety of omitting* a certain drug in the disease in question, was debated—a novel but very gratifying innovation.

The relation of several cases followed. At half past one o'clock, the Society adjourned to the Parker House, to the dinner given by the physicians of New Bedford.

The Bristol Society have every reason to be satisfied with the meeting on Wednesday; and for their hospitalities on that occasion they have the grateful acknowledgments of at least one from

NORFOLK.

CLIMATE OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA.

WE have received a circular published semi-annually by Dr. Mauran, of St. Augustine, Meteorologist to the Smithsonian Institute for the State of Florida, containing statistical tables of the range of the thermometer, the prevailing winds and the state of the weather for a period included between January 13th and July 1st, 1855, and conveying a highly favorable impression of the mildness of that climate during the winter months, and its adaptation to invalids suffering from pulmonary complaints. The observations were taken daily, at 8 A.M., 2 P.M., and 10 P.M. The lowest temperature in January was 30 degrees (on the morning of the 27th), the highest, 76 degrees (on the afternoon of the 21st). In February, the thermometer ranged, at 8 A.M., between 30 and 62; at 2 P.M., between 45 and 76; at 10 P.M., between 39 and 70. In March, the range at 8 A.M., was from 37 to 71; at 2 P.M., 45 to 85; at 10 P.M., from 39 to 80. The prevailing warm winds are from the eastern quarter, the temperature of the air being raised by the Gulf Stream, which sweeps along the coast but a few miles from the city. The highest temperature during the six months was on May 23d, when the thermometer stood in the afternoon at 98 deg. The hottest weather in June, was on the 21st and 23d, when the mercury was at 86 deg. We publish these facts for the benefit of those who are compelled to resort to a more genial climate than their own during the winter and spring months, believing that they will find the city of St. Augustine a comfortable and agreeable place of refuge.

FORMULA FOR THE TREATMENT OF GONORRHEA.

WE copy from the *Union Médicale* of Aug. 23th, the following formula of an electuary employed for many years by M. Beyran, in the treatment of gonorrhœa:—Take of copaiva, \mathfrak{z} iss.; calcined magnesias, \mathfrak{z} i.; alum (levigated), gr. xv.; catechu (levigated), \mathfrak{z} iss.; cubebs, \mathfrak{z} ix.; opium, gr. xv.; essence peppermint, do. canella, aa gtt. xl. M. Make an electuary.

M. Beyran administers this electuary in sub-acute gonorrhœa, at the commencement of the discharge, and before the inflammation has extended throughout the urethra. Gleet, when unaccompanied by stricture, may also be treated by this preparation. The dose is a teaspoonful in the morning, another an hour before dinner, and a third at bed time. It is best taken by wrapping it in a moistened wafer. When the discharge is arrested, the dose is to be gradually diminished until the medicine is stopped. The mode of administering bulky or nauseous powders, electuaries, &c., in wafers made of unleavened bread (*pain azime*, or *chanté*), which is so commonly employed by the French, deserves to be more known among us. The medicine being wrapped in the moistened wafer, can be easily swallowed, like an oyster, without the patient perceiving the taste. We have found this method very convenient where large doses of cubebs are to be taken. The wafers may be had of some of our principal apothecaries.

ON THE VARIATIONS OF MOTHERS' AND NURSES' MILK.

THE water is increased by improper food, bad digestion, and in a peculiar manner in so-called strong constitutions. The child falls off, becomes anæmic, and its nightly cries indicate an unsatisfied call for nutrition. With this condition there is much urine and scanty stools. The water is diminished by recurring pregnancy, during menstruation, by intervening illness, especially by acute colitis and chronic enteritis. A diminution of solid food, and increased imbibition of water, are recommended; and if pregnancy recur, weaning.

The solid elements are increased under the conditions just named, as in colitis. The milk becomes too nutritive and difficult of digestion. There is a diminution of the solid elements when nourishment is bad, in advanced age, typhus, and in chronic tuberculosis without diarrhœa.

Casein appears increased in much-developed breasts, menstruation, acute disease, and mental disturbance. The child soon suffers from constipation, aphthæ, and lastly, marasmus. The casein is diminished when nourishment is bad, in robust constitutions, chronic diseases, typhus.

The butter is increased in much-developed breasts, pregnancy, acute, and still more in chronic disease. In this case, also, the nutrition of the child is gradually impaired. The woman should take free exercise in the open air, and a diet as free as possible from amylaceous and fatty materials; the child should take the breast more sparingly. The butter is diminished when nourishment is bad, in mental commotions, and tuberculosis with diarrhœa. Here an amylaceous and fatty diet is useful, and bodily and mental quietude. The sugar is but seldom increased. It is diminished by absolute fasting, in robust constitutions, during menstruation, and in acute diseases. This deficiency may be supplied by administration of milk-sugar to the nursing, whilst the nurse may take amylaceous and saccharine diet. The salts are increased in acute disease, especially typhus, and these occasion diarrhœa in the child. Both nurse and nursing should take phosphate of lime and common salt.—*Dr. H. Ploss, Jour. f. Kinderkrankh.*

Deaths in Boston for the week ending Saturday noon, Nov. 17th, 50. Males, 25—females, 25. Abscess, 1—accident, 1—congestion of the brain, 3—chicken pox, 1—consumption, 6—convulsions, 1—cholera infantum, 1—croup, 2—dropsy, 1—dropsy in the head, 3—debility, 1—infantile diseases, 5—puerperal, 1—erysipelas, 1—typhus fever, 1—typhoid fever, 3—scarlet fever, 1—disease of the hip, 1—disease of the heart, 1—jaundice, 1—disease of the kidneys, 1—inflammation of the lungs, 2—disease of the liver, 1—measles, 1—old age, 1—pleurisy, 1—disease of spine, 1—smallpox, 2—tubercular meningitis, 1—unknown, 2—whooping cough, 1.

Under 5 years, 21—between 5 and 20 years, 6—between 20 and 40 years, 13—between 40 and 60 years, 7—above 60 years, 3. Born in the United States, 34—Ireland, 15—England, 1.

A CARD LEFT ON A DOCTOR'S DOOR, ON HIS GOING OUT TO TEA.

WE lately saw, in a paper of very limited circulation, some lines which so aptly illustrate certain passages in a "Doctor's" life, that we asked permission of their writer to republish them in our pages. The piece is framed after a well-known model, as will be at once perceived; it was originally intended for, and was read at, a social meeting of the "Norfolk District Medical Society," in 1853, and would never have been printed but for the urgent solicitation of a friend. Without much liking for parody in general, we endorse this as exceedingly ingenious. The signature of its author, B. E. C., is well-known to the readers of this Journal.—[EDITORS.]

THE night-bell rings an end to sleeping aye;
The low-laid crowds from labors o'er should be;
The Doctor outward takes his darksome way,
And leaves his bed for sickness and—a fee.

Now pale the flickering street-lamps in the night,
And silence reigns beneath the clouded dome,
Save where the carriage-wheels, with rumbling might,
Convey late revellers to their anxious home;—

Save that behind his motley-colored door,
Some yawning Leech may to himself complain
Of such as, ringing at the midnight hour,
Buy physic only by the single grain.

Beneath those shingled roofs, that slated pile,
Where swells the down in many a tumbled heap,
Each in his cosy bed, forgetting toil,
Most other dwellers of the village sleep.

The wheezy call of garlic-chewing churl,
The servant sputtering through the tin-made tube,
The maid's shrill summons, or the Hibernian howl,
May never wake them from the sleep they love.

Of them no more shall dangerous camphene burn,
(Now prudent housewives Newell's patent use);
No children wake, in fits, ere morn return,
Or "tedious case" the wished-for rest refuse.

Perhaps in a neglected cot is laid
Some head all swollen with St. Anthon's fire;
Hands that the druggist's pestle might have swayed,
Or stirred electuaries in a serf's attire.

Full many a beau of purest "diddling" mien
To dark unwindowed cell to lodge repairs;
Full many a belle is doomed to leer unseen,
And waste her graces and coquettish airs.

Some village-gossip, that with heartless breast
With little libels all the town would flood;
Some mute and hoseless fireman there may rest,
Some colonel guiltless of a foeman's blood.

The moans of sickening babies to allay,
The attacks of cramp and colic to subdue,
To dole out physic all the livelong day,
And hear one's title in the school-boy's hue,

Is not their fate; nor their's perchance to atone
For fatal lesions that all art defied;
They hear no curses for an ill-set bone,
Nor gaping wound from sutures loosely tied;

No scolding tongues an unpaid bill to veil;
No sighs for ailments of inglorious name;
They dress no bruise from enginery or rail,
With cerates mingled at the chemist's flame.

Their chintz, their frocks, soiled by unceasing use,
The place of silk and honiton supply;
And many a dingy robe around it strews,
That warns the shrewd economist to dye.

For who to woful raggedness a prey
His fading, napless raiment e'er resigned,—
Left his warm bedding 'fore the break of day,
Nor cast one longing, lingering look behind.

For thee, who envious of unbroken sleep,
Dost thus so loudly thy complainings din,
If now, from some affliction sore and deep,
A suffering friend should ask if thou art "in,"

Haply a dusty-headed "help" may say,
"Oft have I seen him round the house this morn,
"Brushing his clothes in haste to get away—
"I'm sure I cannot tell where he has gone;

"Upon yon couch, now tattered o'er and torn,
"Mixing his awful physic, he would get;
"Now fainting, hungry, lean, like one out-worn,
"Or wanting sleep, or head-and-ears in debt.

"One hour I missed him—hunting up a bill;
"Gone was the hash, and ne'er a bit of tea;
"A patient came; nor yet upon the sill,
"Nor up the stairs, nor on the couch was he;—

"The next, to driver's seat, both high and hard,
"Of the slow, crowded 'bus, I saw him soar;
"Come here and read (for I can't read) the card
"Placed as a sign upon the office door."

THE CARD.

Here dwells, awaiting all the haps of life,
A doctor humble and of less conceit;
For lofty station never was his strife,
And mammon-folly mars not his retreat.

Few are his wishes, with the world content;
His daily recompense enough, though small;
In early studies all he had spent;
Now gains in practice oft ('twas all he hoped) a call.

No farther seek him till to-morrow's dawn,
Let him, uncalled, a casual feast attend
(Where he awhile from troubling cares has gone),
The supper of a neighbor and a friend.